

Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc.

Presents



The Players

All the parties involved in the process of preserving Ohio's defined benefit pensions.



The Legislators

General Assembly

The Ohio General Assembly sets the rules and regulations for the operation for each of Ohio's 5 retirement systems: Public Employees, State Teachers, School Employees, Police & Fire, and Highway Patrol.

Ohio Retirement Study Council

The Ohio Retirement Study Council, a council within the General Assembly, monitors each of the retirement systems. They, in-turn, make recommendations to the various legislative committees about pension related matters.



The Boards

Ohio Retirement System Boards

Each of the 5 retirement systems has a board of trustees.

These boards consist of:

- 4 or 5 current worker and 2 retiree elected members
- 3 financial-expert members, 1 each appointed by the Governor, the Treasurer, and the General Assembly
- 3 of the systems have 1 statutory member.

These men and women have the fiduciary responsibility of overseeing their pension fund investments and healthcare benefits under the rules and regulations set down in the Ohio Revised Code.



An Association for all Impacted Parties

Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc.

Our membership is open to all retired and current worker members from each of Ohio's 5 public pension systems.

We are joined together for the purpose of building the largest and strongest association possible, for addressing issues that are potentially harmful to the health and well-being of Ohio's defined benefit pension funds, and to the health care benefits they provide.

We have established the acronym (POP5) to identify not only Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc., but also the 5 Ohio pension systems.



An Association for All (continued_1)

Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc. monitors every special interest, or politically motivated, piece of legislation that is introduced, or about to be introduced.

We then measure its potential impact on the continued existence of Ohio's defined benefit pension funds, or upon any pension-system board member's ability to carry out his, or her, investment responsibility to act *solely in the best interest of participants and beneficiaries** as expressed in the Ohio Revised Code.

* (ORC 145.11, 3307.15, 3309.15, 742.11, and 5505.06).



An Association for All (continued_2)

When a concern arises, we will discuss the situation with the appropriate leaders of Ohio's pension systems, the Ohio Retirement Study Council and the Ohio General Assembly.

From the results of those discussions, we will develop and propose an appropriate promotional, or legislative, plan of action for our membership.

Drawing from the information they will receive from Protect Ohio Pensions, members will then have the facts, and consequently the ability, to help protect and preserve Ohio's defined benefit pension funds and the benefits they provide to us and the Ohio economy alike.



Accurate and Timely

Pension system retirees and members need an accurate and timely source for information about special interest, or politically-motivated legislation, that would have a negative impact on their retirement paychecks and health care benefits.

The retirement boards we elect, and the staffs that run our pension systems, have to depend on us to protect them from outside influences that can damage or eliminate our Ohio defined benefit pension plans.

We need to be willing to learn and act so that the pension systems can continue to provide us with health care and paychecks.



Quality of Information

In order to be accurately informed, one needs information which has not been slanted by politicians, special interest, media, and yes, even misinformed friends and neighbors.

For the past 22 years, Protect Ohio Pensions personnel have been providing this quality of information as well as leading the fight to preserve and protect our defined benefit pension plans.

Over the past few years, the challenges to our defined benefit pension plans, and the attempted political manipulation of investment decisions, have increased. The growing need for countering these challenges has fostered the development of Protect Ohio Pensions, and why it is so important for all of us to be involved now.



We Need Your Help

The Relevance of Your Personal Involvement

We can have a wealth of knowledge, and officers with years of experience in pension system legislation; but without you, we are like a voice crying in the wilderness.

In all political endeavors, the more people you represent, the greater your influence.

We need your membership and participation.

When we stand together and properly present our position, we will have the best opportunity to protect our defined benefit pension plans, and the benefits they provide to us and our local economies.



Retiree Associations

The Mission of Retiree Associations

Each of the state pension systems has an affiliated retiree association. Their primary purpose is to represent their member's interests before their respective pension system board.

Our Mission is Quite Different

We are 100% focused on protecting the continued existence of Ohio's Defined Benefit Pension Plans against those that would eliminate them, and

On protecting the pension systems' investment decisions, from those who would attempt to circumvent current law, by legislating actions that are contrary to the best interest of pension system members.



The Conclusion to the Matter

Our board consist of officers with years of pension related legislative experience.

We communicate accurately with our members so they will have the information to effectively communicate with their local legislators.

With pension system and Protect Ohio Pensions officers and members working together, we will have the best potential possible to protect Ohio defined benefit pensions for the benefit of all of Ohio's public workers and our local economies.

